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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/704,864	11/02/2000	Thomas J. Foth	F-206	5186

919 7590 06/02/2003

PITNEY BOWES INC.
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SHELTON, CT 06484-8000

EXAMINER

ELISCA, PIERRE E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3621

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/704,864

Applicant(s)
Thomas J. Foth et al.

Examiner
Pierre E. Elisca

Art Unit
3621



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/02/2000
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 1
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

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Examiner Pierre Eddy Elisca

United States Department of Commerce

Patent and Trademark Office

Washington, D.C. 20231

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is in response to Application No. 09/704,864, filed on 11/02/2000.
2. Claims 1-19 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 (b)

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Stefik et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,638,443).

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As per claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14-16, and 18-19 Stefik discloses a system/method for controlling use and distribution of composite digital works (which is readable as Applicant's claimed invention wherein it is stated that a method for handling material) the method comprising:

obtaining digital rights management protected material for a consumer (see., abstract, specifically wherein it is stated that composite digital work by examining the usage rights for each individual digital work);

informing a bookshelf that the protected material was obtained (see., abstract, col 4, lines 15-32, specifically wherein it is stated that access is granted if the composite digital work if access to each of the individual digital works can be granted, col 5, lines 43-67, and col 6, lines 36-48, please note that bookshelf is readable as tree structure);

determining whether or not there is a existing copy of the protected material (see., col 3, lines 50-67, col 4, lines 1-32);

storing an existing copy of the protected material automatically of archival purposes at a site remote from the consumer (see., abstract, col 4, lines 15-32);

creating a pointer for the consumer to point to the stored archival material (see., abstract, specifically wherein it is stated that a node in the acrylic structure is comprised of an identifier of the individual work, usage rights for the individual digital work and a pointer to the digital work, and col 4, lines 9-14).

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As per claims 5, 9, 13, and 17 Stefik discloses the claimed method wherein the pointer is located in a bookshelf (see., abstract, col 4, lines 9-14).

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Pierre Eddy Elisca at (703) 305-3987. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Friday from 6:30AM. to 5:00PM.

If any attempt to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (703) 305-9768.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

The Official Fax Number For TC-3600 is:

(703) 305-7687


Pierre Eddy Elisca

Patent Examiner

March 29, 2003